

## BOOK REVIEWS

LYNN M. STEINER. 2010. **Prairie-Style Gardens: Capturing the Essence of the American Prairie Wherever You Live.** (ISBN: 978-1-60469-003-3, hbk.). Timber Press, Inc., The Haseltine Building, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, 800-327-5680). \$34.95, 304 pp., 182 color photos, 1 map, 7" x 9".

*Prairie-Style Gardens: Capturing the Essence of the American Prairie Wherever You Live* is a motivating, beautiful book with many photographs of wildflowers and grasses found in American prairies. The book is divided into four chapters and includes profiles of flowers and grasses and sedges. It begins with a chapter about the inspiration for the prairie and by the time I finished that chapter I was hooked. Steiner clearly is enamored with the prairie plants and convinces the reader anyone can help re-create a bit of the prairie. The author conveys her passion for the prairie through her writing and photographs.

This book encourages the reader to add prairie plantings into the garden no matter how big or small the available space. Steiner makes a good case for restoring prairies and biodiversity. She shows great respect for the plants that survive through high winds, drought conditions, and repetitive disturbances. There are helpful tips throughout the book on everything from preparing the soil to winning the neighbors over with your natural landscape.

The Flowers Index is quite extensive with a colored photograph next to every detailed description. This is incredibly helpful to the novice prairie gardener. The information covers wildlife attraction, landscape uses, and native habitat. As I read the previous chapters I did find myself flipping to the index repeatedly so that I knew which flower she was currently referencing. Perhaps covering the flowers first in the book would alleviate this problem. The Grasses and Sedges section was a disappointment with only nine different species represented. Many of the photographs were captioned with both the scientific and common name while others only included the common name. It would be helpful to use both names throughout. Overall this is an inspiring book for any gardener, not just those already intrigued with native plants.

—Julie Donovan, Coordinator of Volunteers, BRIT, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.

MARTY WINGATE. 2011. **Landscaping for Privacy: Innovative Ways to Turn Your Outdoor Space into a Peaceful Retreat.** (ISBN: 978-1-60469-123-8, pbk.). Timber Press, Inc., The Haseltine Building, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, 800-327-5680). \$19.95, 155 pp., color photos, 8" x 9".

Andrew Buchanan's book cover photograph serves as the subliminal concierge to Marty Wingate's *Landscaping for Privacy: Innovative Ways to Turn Your Outdoor Space into a Peaceful Retreat*.

Ms. Wingate's book is a clearly visible written example of her landscape gardening/design prowess. In addition, it demonstrates she is a savvy author who has garnered an extraordinarily talented team of professional photographers, book designers, and a well known publisher of books on gardening, horticulture, etc.

The reader's sojourn into the Table of Contents will ensure the reader will turn the next page. While the writing is for a general readership, it is cerebral fodder for soundscape ecologists. It is notable for the striking fidelity of its illustrations, photographs, and the ease with which they provide identification of buffers, barriers, screens, and plant lists. Plant lists offer ideas for readers to consider for optimum landscape privacy design. Scientific and common plant names are included in each category of the listings. Also, an extensive index cross indexes scientific plant names and common names. In addition, conversion tables, plant hardiness zones and resource names/websites are included at the end of the text.

Why wait to develop innovative ways to turn your outdoor space into a peaceful retreat?

—Kay M. Stansbery, Ph.D., Library volunteer,  
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